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Subj: MAXIM AWARD NOMINATION

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Unit: 070-17-06

Region: Atlantic East

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF GEORGE SHERMAN PEEK FOR THE MAXIM AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN INSTRUCTION**

Dr. GEORGE PEEK has been a stalwart Auxiliarist, dedicating his 18 years of Auxiliary service to educating the boating public and his peers. He never fails to step up when there is a need for instruction – even going to great lengths to acquire the personal training necessary, often at his own expense, to support his calling to teach. His constant seeking of opportunities to provide innovative and relevant training are what make him the epitome of leadership in education, and why he needs to be recognized as the Maxim Excellence in Instruction award winner. Below are brief enumerations of his skills, dedication and commitment to instructing the public as well as fellow Auxiliarists.

Dr. PEEK was the Division Chief – Commercial Vessel Activities in the Auxiliary Prevention Directorate from November 2010 through October 2020. During his tenure on the National Committee Dr. PEEK was instrumental in developing two PowerPoint presentations for Uninspected Passenger Vessel owner/operations and for passengers, as well as a PowerPoint introducing and reinforcing the Uninspected Passenger Vessel Policy Letter, all of which are available on the Prevention Directorate website.

When COVID precautions prevented conducting in-person classes, Dr. PEEK readily volunteered to develop and deliver classes on Zoom. He purchased a professional version of Zoom to use since classes extended beyond an hour.

To prepare for this new online teaching media Dr. PEEK attended publicly provided online Zoom classes, as well as attending the CGAUX training class on Teaching on Zoom. He also read numerous articles which provided information on teaching on Zoom. Dr. PEEK often acted as host for the Zoom classes that he team taught with other CGAux Instructors.

Dr. PEEK saw a need for Culinary Assistants to receive the same high-quality Risk Management training he offers to members with operations qualifications. He went into the galley aboard the USCGC CONFIDENCE, as well as into the galley at Station Port Canaveral to assess and photograph potential risk areas. He then built a presentation, backed up by PowerPoint, to share with all CA’s, ensuring that extreme risks encountered within the galley setting are recognized and mitigated to avoid mishaps. The presentation developed specifically for Culinary Assistants was instrumental in identifying hazards that might have been overlooked by eager Auxiliarists.

Dr. PEEK participated in a 48-hour **Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA)** Marine Safety Instructor Training Course on January 28-February 2, 2013 in Jacksonville FL. AMSEA provided Immersion Suits, Educational and Informational videos, and safety equipment to use in training classes. His AMSEA training covered Immersion Suits, Life Rafts, Damage Control Trainer, P6 pump, Stability Training Aids, Safety Equipment, PFD, Boat Handling, Line Handling, Cold and Warm Water Survival.

Dr. PEEK’s teaching aids and virtual presentations help students stay engaged and interested in an environment where it is easy to become distracted.

Dr. PEEK brings his 40 years of university teaching to his CGAUX Teaching. His comfort in commanding a classroom and interacting with students is evidenced by the always packed classrooms, whether virtual or in-person. His classes are in high demand, and he utilized his expertise to keep students engaged and focused.

This experience includes developing class objectives and creating innovative methods to meet those objectives; having the ability to organize presentation materials; and adjusting presentations based upon the audience and the presentation media (in-person and zoom). He routinely included his students by asking questions and encouraging students to share relevant experiences to further enhance course material.

Dr. PEEK is able to hold students’ attention through the value-added information and experience he brings to every presentation. He uses visual aids to demonstrate a point, shows videos or audio clips that enhance~~s~~ the topic, and uses personal stories to connect students to the material. Students leave his courses excited and enthused to further their learning experience.

Dr. PEEK was instrumental in auxiliary members achieving their Auxiliary Operations (AUXOP) devise, getting through their MSAM coursework, working towards their UPV and Life Raft certification, and becoming boat crew qualified. He has encouraged newer auxiliary members to become involved in the Culinary Assistant (CA) program as a CA and encouraged others toward striving to become CA Instructors.

When COVID necessitated the auxiliary move to virtual meetings and training in order to stay mission ready, many instructors balked. Dr. PEEK showed his innovator spirit and stepped forward and adapted his classroom materials and experience to virtual outreach. Switching to teaching virtually challenged Dr. PEEK to both create and offer virtual content, and well as experiment with ways to make the virtual presentations relevant and engaging to his students. At every turn, Dr. PEEK stepped forward offering to fill training needs for both the boating public as well as his fellow auxiliary teammates.

Dr. PEEK is always willing to mentor and coach new instructors. He will role-play teaching scenarios, model instructing techniques, and offer useful feedback that allows new instructors to gain confidence and present material in the best possible methods to be received.

Pages could be filled with the mentoring opportunities George has provided, below is a very brief list of some highlights.

* Mentored trainees for Waterfront Facility Inspections (33CFR 154, 156, 105).
* Assisted in the development of the auxiliary Port Canaveral Cruise Ship Terminal Spot Check Program, and taught/reviewed the regulatory requirements.
* Mentored trainees for the AUX Assistant Life Raft Facility Inspector PQS.
* Mentored trainees for Uninspected Towing Vessel PQS.
* Mentored trainees for Uninspected Passenger Vessels PQS.
* Mentored trainees for Commercial Fishing Vessel PQS.
* Provided numerous ICS courses and ICS Instructor training.

As you can see, Dr. PEEK has dedicated himself to instructing members of the Auxiliary and members of the public with an eye toward personal safety and marine protection. There is no instructor who encapsulated better his selfless giving of his time and talents.